

Amendments to the Drawings:

The replacement sheet in the Appendix includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet, which also includes Figure 2, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1-2. In Figure 1, the previously omitted dots indicating welds 10 have been added and element number 21 has been changed to 31.

Remarks

The specification and drawings have been amended to make editorial changes therein, bearing in mind the criticisms in the Official Action, to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Not all objections to the specification are clear (e.g., page 1, line 20 does not include "the cells") and the changes herein are responsive to the comments as best understood.

The previously pending claims have been replaced with new claims that are directed to the elected method of making a reactor cell. The new claims are believed to be proper as to form and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Claims 14-16 and 24 were rejected as unpatentable over KONO et al. 5,403,558 in view of CAIRNS et al. GB 1,546,097; and claim 19 was rejected further in view of MAUS et al. 5,103,641. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the new claims.

One of the objectives of the present invention was to provide a method for joining sheets of a reactor cell that provides a cell that is particularly resistant to demanding conditions.

CAIRNS et al. discloses preoxidation of metal sheets, but does not disclose that the preoxidized sheets are joined

simultaneously to each other and to at least part of the housing by resistance welding after the preoxidizing step. The other references do not disclose the claimed preoxidizing step and thus do not make up for the shortcomings of CAIRNS et al.

Preoxidation hinders joining of metal sheets when brazing or normal welding is used to join the sheets. One of skill in the art would take steps to avoid preoxidation of the sheets before joining the sheets, such as by coating the sheets with plastic, wax, grease, etc., and cleaning the sheets with solvents and the like.

The present applicant has surprisingly discovered that the heretofore undesirable preoxidation of the sheets improves the joining of the sheets by resistance welding. The references do not suggest to one of skill in the art that preoxidizing the sheets could be used to promote the joining of the sheets using resistance welding.

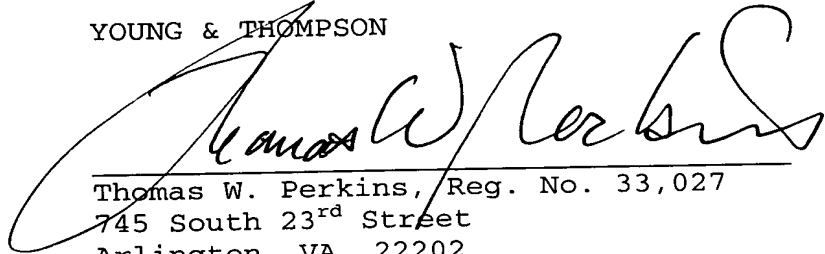
As explained at page 6 (last paragraph), the resistance welding in claims 27-30 takes place simultaneously. New claim 30 does not require the "simultaneous" welding.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/mjr

Appendix

- one replacement drawing sheet.